

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MULTI-PROCESSOR CLUSTERS OF
MULTI-CLUSTER COMPUTER SYSTEMS

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CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application is related to United States Patent Application number 10635705
(~~attorney docket number NWISP041~~), filed the same day as this application, United States
Patent Application number 10635744, (~~attorney docket number NWISP042~~), filed the same
10 day as this application, United States Patent Application number 10635793 (~~attorney docket
number NWISP043~~), filed the same day as this application, United States Patent Application
number 10602830 entitled "Improving Bandwidth, Framing and Error Detection in
Communications Between Multi-Processor Clusters of Multi-Cluster Computer Systems,"
filed June 23, 2003 (~~attorney docket number NWISP045~~), and to United States Patent
15 Application numbers 10/157,384 and 10/156,893, both of which were filed on May 28,
2002. All of the foregoing applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 The present invention relates generally to multi-processor computer systems. More
specifically, the present invention provides techniques for sending signals between clusters
of computer systems having a plurality of multi-processor clusters.

A relatively new approach to the design of multi-processor systems replaces
broadcast communication such as bus or ring architectures among processors with a point-
to-point data transfer mechanism in which the processors communicate similarly to network
25 nodes in a tightly-coupled computing system. That is, the processors are interconnected via